

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
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AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 1949

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SF
SUBJECT: SSRC 11 VS SAG: CHETTY OVERVIEW

REF: A) JOHANNESBURG 1857; B) JOHANNESBURG 1845; C) STATE 201505

1. POLOFF DISCUSSED SSRC 11 TRIAL WITH DEFENSE ATTORNEY SHUN CHETTY. CHETTY SAYS TRIAL WILL HAVE "SAME CAST OF CHARACTERS" ON BOTH DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION AS BIKO INQUEST. CHETTY FEELS TRIAL WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT TRIAL CASE OF LATE, EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN BIKO INQUEST, BECAUSE CASE REPRESENTS "THE SYSTEM" VS BLACK POLITICAL ACTIVISM AND THE REAL INDICTMENT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF 1976 SOWETO RIOTS. AS SUCH, CHETTY FEELS IT WILL INDEED BE A "SHOW TRIAL" AS THE SAG MUST PROVE THAT SOWETO 1976 WAS NOT A SPONTANEOUS OUTBREAK BUT RATHER THE RESULT OF A CAREFULLY PLANNED AND ORCHESTRATED INSURRECTION LED BY THE SSRC 11 AND OTHERS.
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2. CHETTY SAYS SAG WILL GO TO GREAT PAINS TO ENSURE PROPER COURTROOM PRACTICES ARE FOLLOWED AND THERE ARE NO GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT AS FAR AS JUDICIAL PROCEDURES. THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT THIS TRIAL WILL ATTRACT GREAT INTEREST AND APPARENTLY WANTS NO CRITICISM OF JUDICIAL PROCESS TO MAR ITS CASE.

3. DEFENDANTS ARE AT PRESENT IN GOOD HEALTH ALTHOUGH CHETTY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS THAT SEVERAL WERE TORTURED AND/OR ASSAULTED WHILE IN CONFINEMENT. CHETTY SAID MONTSISI IN PARTICULAR SEEMS TO HAVE ENDURED ROUGH TREATMENT, INCLUDING TORTURE.

4. CHETTY SUPPLIED CONGEN WITH COPY OF INDICTMENT WHICH SEEMS TO INDICATE GOVERNMENT CASE WILL BE WELL PREPARED AND WELL DOCUMENTED. COPY OF INDICTMENT BEING AIR POUCHED TO AF/S.

5. CHETTY SAYS GOVERNMENT HAS PUT ITS "BEST" PEOPLE ON THIS CASE AND ARE GOING ALL OUT FOR CONVICTION TO PROVE THAT SSRC 11 WERE NOT MERELY ARTICULATING GRIEVANCES OF BLACK COMMUNITY BUT RATHER DEDICATED TO OVERTHROWING THE GOVERNMENT -- HENCE CHARGE OF SEDITION. CHETTY SEEMS OPTIMISTIC HE CAN DEFEND THE ELEVEN IN ANY CASE.

6. COMMENT: HAVING REVIEWED INDICTMENT WITH CHETTY, IT SEEMS SAG HAS PUT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT INTO COMPILING CASE. COMPREHENSIVE FILE OF DOCUMENTS AND WITNESSES OFFERS INSIGHT INTO EFFECTIVENESS OF SA POLICE INFILTRATION AND INFORMATION ON BLACK POLITICAL GROUPS.

7. POLOFF IS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO VISIT SSRC 11 IN PRISON,
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